



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 30, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: August 29, 2004  
CWP WA-CW3504

## Fears of Sprout Damage in Unharvested Cereals Hops Knocked Down by Wind and Rain

### Field Crops

Record amounts of rain fell over parts of the state this week causing cereal harvests to be halted in several counties. Producers that still had grains in the fields were worried about sprout damage. Other producers that had started seeding winter wheat were concerned about the possibility of having to replant due to the significant amounts of rain that they received. Third cutting alfalfa hay that still remained in the field suffered rain damage in Grant County and in other parts of the state. However, dry pastures benefitted from the rains.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 18% poor, 46% fair, and 33% good. Dairies were preparing for corn silage harvest in Snohomish and North King Counties.

### Fruits and Vegetables

A couple of Benton County hop growers reported rain and strong winds knocked down some of their hops. Wine grape harvest began about ten days ahead of schedule in Benton County. Yakima County experienced cooler temperatures and a few scattered showers, which allowed Gala and other earlier maturing apple variety harvests to continue at a slower pace. Strawberry growers in Whatcom County completed their post harvest plant mowing. Also, Whatcom County's picking of fall bearing raspberries was underway. Sweet corn, apples, and pears continued to be harvested.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.0
Last Week	7.0

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	22	62	11
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	23	47	30	0
Subsoil	6	34	60	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	49	37	0
Irrigation Water	3	5	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	92	0
Hay & Roughage	0	3	90	7

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	89	81	96	81
Winter Wheat Planted	3	1	14	6
Winter Wheat Harvested	91	87	98	94
Barley Harvested	87	85	96	79
Potatoes Harvested	43	37	42	30
Corn Silage Harvested	12	11	8	10
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	20	15	33	15
Dry Peas Harvested	95	91	98	79
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	88	75	91	86

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	1	7	90	2
Corn	0	0	2	96	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	8	90	2

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Heavy rainfall throughout the week absolutely saturated the rural landscape, bringing an end to the summer drought. Some areas of the county reported rainfall exceeding two inches per day, which rapidly replenished depleted soil moisture. Sweet corn growers were jubilant that the rainfall came just in time to help fields where irrigation had been in short supply. Christmas tree growers reported that the previous rainfall, combined with current rain significantly improved tree color. Pastures and hayfields began greening up from the additional moisture. Hybrid poplar plantations were beginning to transition from summer's emerald green foliage to fall's golds and browns. Home gardeners continued to compete with yellow jackets for Italian prunes, Gravenstein apples, and assorted plums. Vegetation throughout the county appeared to have been rejuvenated by all the recent precipitation.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Record rain fell over the weekend with totals ranging from 1.5 inches to well over two inches throughout the region. Subsequent periods of rain probably doubled the one day amount received over the weekend. Sweet corn benefitted the most from the rain, and parched pastures should begin greening up again. Grain fields that had not been cut will probably suffer sprout damage if the cool wet trend continues.

**Jefferson:** The season continued to be 2-3 weeks ahead of normal with warm temperatures and drought conditions. Hay and garlic harvest was completed. There were some small spot fires in the woods due to the low moisture. Water supplies were running low. Some areas were on conservation water rationing.

**Pierce/South King:** The cooler weather slowed down crop growth. The recent rain left some fields with standing water. There were no reports of crop damage and no unusual situations to report.

**Skagit:** Rainfall of 3.6 inches during the beginning of the week brought most field activities to a halt. With 2.37 inches falling two days prior to that, the result was many flooded fields and some growers needing to haul stuck equipment out of fields with tractors. Cabbage and spinach seed were nearly all harvested prior to the rain. But most beet seed had not been harvested, and some fields were cut and drying in fields. There was concern about seed shattering and premature sprouting. Apple harvest was in its second week. Harvest was two weeks earlier than normal due to the warm, dry summer. From the end of May to the end of August, only 2.74 inches of precipitation was recorded at WSU Mount Vernon.

**Snohomish/North King:** Temperatures were cooler than normal by as much as ten degrees during the week. Evidence of the prior week's heavy rain was showing with many fruits and berries showing damage. The extent of damage or lower yields was not known. Corn crops looked good and pumpkins were showing color. Dairies were preparing for corn silage harvest.

**Thurston:** The summer drought of 2004 became history as a deluge of rainfall was received during the week. Many areas of the county reported accumulation in excess of several inches. The additional moisture, combined with last week's rain, resulted in the rapid greening of pastures. Warm, sunny weather over the weekend helped to dry out the soggy conditions. Blueberry harvest was completed on several farms making this year the shortest harvest in over 50 years! One grower reported the third largest blueberry yield in the history of the 60 year old farm. The warm weather and ample soil moisture were ideal for weed germination. Christmas tree growers reported a continued strong demand for both Grand fir and Noble fir by wholesale tree buyers. Home gardeners reported that vegetable and tree fruit yields were nothing short of phenomenal! Yellow jackets feasted on assorted food items at family picnics.

## Central

**Benton:** Early apples, peaches, and nectarines were harvested. Wine grape harvest began about ten days earlier than normal. Recent rains improved soil moisture conditions.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest was nearly completed, but it was delayed by continued showers and overcast weather. Apple and grape harvest continued. Hop producers reported that some hops were knocked down because of the rain and strong winds.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Rain halted the wheat harvest. The precipitation was good for fall pastures. Most producers had not yet begun to seed the 2005 winter wheat crop, so very little acreage will have to be replanted due to the rain. Early variety apple harvest began. Pear harvest was underway.

**Franklin:** Sweet corn, potatoes, dry beans, and carrots continued to be harvested. Vegetable crops looked good. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was about 50 percent completed.

**Grant:** Rain delayed fieldwork and harvest. About 50 percent of the third cutting of alfalfa still in the field suffered rain damage. Sweet corn harvest continued.

**Kittitas:** Much of the Valley's sweet corn was nearly ready to harvest. Approximately half of the second cutting of timothy hay was completed. Cooler temperatures and mid-August rains brought cool-season pastures back to life.

**Kittitas (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The second cutting of timothy hay and the third cutting of alfalfa was damaged due to heavy rains. Sweet corn harvest continued with average yields reported. Range and pasture conditions improved with the recent rains.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** The counties received precipitation which stopped harvest for a couple of days and stopped seeding of fall wheat. The rain helped the fall pastures. Pear harvest was underway and harvest of some early apple varieties began.

**Yakima:** Cooler weather, as well as a few scattered rain showers, was appreciated by tree fruit growers. Harvest of Gala apples and other earlier maturing apple varieties continued at a less than hectic pace. Fruit appearance and storage quality should improve under cooler harvest conditions.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from five degrees below normal to two degrees above normal, with 0.27 inches of precipitation.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Harvest was completed and winter wheat seeding should be in full swing after getting slowed by precipitation. Growers were trying to determine if they should seed, wait for weeds, rodweed then seed, or something in between. Seeding conditions should be good after precipitation and moisture conditions are adequate.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Up to half an inch of rain made furrows stand tall for those seeding afterwards; however, the rain created emergence issues for some earlier seeding. The potential for a healthy flush of cheat grass made for a dilemma on whether to rod before seeding or spray afterwards. Alfalfa producers were less than enthused about another cutting of hay getting wet.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain early in the week put a halt to harvest. Many producers in the higher elevations were still trying to complete harvest. Rain totals varied widely with heavy amounts in some areas. Sprout damage was yet to be determined.

**Lincoln:** Precipitation at the start of the week stopped harvest again. Winter wheat seeding began and will progress slowly across the county. Seeding conditions should be pretty good as moisture conditions were mostly adequate.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rain during the week helped seeding conditions and improved pastures, but delayed the finish of harvest.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Rain moved into the region early in the week and shut down harvest operations for the balance of the week. Rain totals were reported from 1-2 inches in the counties. The weekend was dry and warm, and producers were eager to get back into the fields to harvest. Concern of sprouted wheat and lentils was still on every grower's mind as they were still harvesting. The rain made pastures and bluegrass fields begin to green up. This was the first good early rain in the growing season

for a number of years. The rain should provide moisture for fall planting.

**Stevens:** The Colville area received between 4-5 inches of rain during the last two weeks. Harvest came to a halt on the fields that had standing grain. Those with grain left to harvest were beginning to become concerned about sprout. The unexpected rain has turned the countryside green again and rejuvenated fall pastures.

**Walla Walla:** Heavy rain, from 1.0 to 1.35 inches, halted all attempts at harvest. Some growers were able to begin cutting again on Friday afternoon. Temperatures were much cooler throughout the week.

**Whatcom:** Potato fields were vine killed and shredded in preparation for a normal post-Labor Day harvest start date. Strawberry growers completed the post-harvest plant mow down. Picking of fall bearing raspberries was underway and should continue through the end of September. Blueberry harvest continued with reports of excellent yields. Field corn reached the hard-dough to dent stage two weeks earlier than normal due to the unusually warm, dry summer. The cutting of corn silage began.

**Whitman:** Considerable rain was received throughout the week in most areas of the county. As soon as conditions permit harvest will resume. Soil moisture was good, which should be beneficial for winter wheat planting.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest came to a complete halt during the week, as scattered thunderstorms from the previous week gave way to cool, wet weather patterns, bringing rain to all of the Palouse. Rains benefitted summer fallow ground in preparation for fall seeding, but the October-like weather brought fears of quality problems with the remaining unharvested 2004 crops.

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# Weekly Weather Statistics

## August 30, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	56	71	62	2	88	7	18	-2	1.71	1.36	4	30.86	-5.26	85	150
Everett	56	71	64	2	98	12	28	3	0.60	0.22	5	30.22	-6.24	83	161
Hoquiam	56	69	63	2	96	15	26	5	1.96	1.52	6	65.93	-1.90	97	188
Kelso	54	79	64	1	103	7	33	-2	0.32	-0.10	2	32.76	-13.72	70	129
Olympia	49	77	63	2	94	8	24	0	1.82	1.46	4	48.01	-2.52	95	162
Sea-Tac	58	73	64	0	102	0	32	-4	1.39	1.07	5	35.97	-1.17	97	144
Shelton	55	77	66	2	109	10	39	2	0.70	0.33	2	62.86	-1.95	97	159
Tacoma	55	74	64	0	97	1	27	-3	1.50	1.15	4	33.64	-6.57	84	142
Vancouver	54	80	66	3	111	13	41	8	1.00	0.65	5	32.50	-8.75	79	153
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	53	89	67	2	121	12	51	5	0.36	0.22	2	8.86	-0.06	99	93
Stampede Pass	49	73	56	3	48	6	4	-3	5.14	4.57	7	76.17	-4.76	94	176
Wenatchee	54	88	67	-4	123	-21	53	-23	0.22	0.08	2	9.84	1.55	119	85
Yakima AP	46	85	64	-3	101	-19	31	-23	0.27	0.13	3	7.94	0.00	100	77
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	51	81	62	-2	88	-10	18	-21	1.05	0.77	4	10.61	-10.56	50	83
Deer Park	48	82	61	-6	78	-34	10	-40	1.61	1.40	5	20.18	1.68	109	135
Spokane AP	52	80	62	-5	84	-30	16	-35	0.84	0.63	4	15.15	-1.31	92	116
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	51	87	67	-6	121	-31	51	-31	0.32	0.25	2	5.98	-1.23	83	71
Moses Lake	49	86	67	-6	120	-32	50	-32	0.44	0.37	2	5.74	-1.47	80	68
Quincy	54	84	67	-2	119	-10	49	-12	0.31	0.18	2	6.01	-1.79	77	64
Ritzville	50	78	62	-5	84	-32	14	-38	0.55	0.41	3	11.35	0.05	100	80
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	54	87	69	-7	132	-44	62	-43	0.25	0.17	3	7.02	0.55	109	72
Pasco	52	90	70	-2	141	-9	71	-10	0.26	0.15	2	8.33	0.85	111	84
Pullman	45	81	61	-4	77	-22	11	-31	0.23	0.02	4	15.79	-5.27	75	112
Whitman Miss.	53	83	67	-2	117	-8	47	-12	0.83	0.67	4	17.59	3.85	128	123
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	52	73	60	-8	69	-54	5	-52	1.88	1.55	5	15.75	-10.16	61	115
Lewiston ID	53	82	66	-6	112	-37	42	-39	1.46	1.25	4	13.38	0.98	108	104

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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